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receiving a customer product portfolio file that identifies products for which data is requested, wherein the customer product portfolio file includes at least one SKU associated with each of the products for which data is requested;

mapping the customer product portfolio file to the system product data file such that each product that is not in the system product data file is identified;

generating enriched product data from the system product data file according to a customer profile; and

transmitting the enriched product data.

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28. (amended) A method of querying a catalog database including product data for one or more products classified according to a data model, the method comprising:

accepting a user query specifying a product and a component to be retrieved, the component being at least one of a product description, technical specifications, a marketing description, an image, and a URL associated with the product;

obtaining a component definition associated with the component;

extracting information specified by the component definition from the catalog database and the data model; and

building a component descriptor from the extracted information and the component definition.

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections set forth in the Office Action mailed on August 7, 2002. Claims 1-28 are pending in the application. Claims 1-28 have been rejected. Claims 1, 2, 13 and 28 have been amended.

A clean version of the amended claims with instructions for entry pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(c)(1)(i) is included above. A marked-up version of the amended claims pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(c)(1)(ii) is attached as Appendix I.

This amendment is to expedite prosecution and should not be construed as acquiescence in any ground of rejection. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the originally filed claims in the future. The comments in the Office Action are now addressed in turn.

Double Patenting

Claims 1-28 are provisionally rejected under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-23 of copending Application No. 09/625745, in view of Blinn (US Patent No. 5,999,914). A terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) accompanies the present amendment. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 USC 103

Claims 1-28 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maxwell et al., (US Patent 5,675,784), and further in view of Blinn et al. (US Patent No. 5,999,914). The rejection is respectfully traversed. It is submitted that the claims of the present invention are non-obvious and patentable over the claims of the cited patents, and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Neither Maxwell et al. ("Maxwell") nor Blinn et al. ("Blinn") disclose or suggest the invention of the pending claims. For instance, with respect to claim 1, neither of the cited reference discloses or suggests storing product data including both a manufacturer SKU that identifies the product and a customer SKU that identifies the product. For instance, a customer SKU may be associated with a customer for which data is being captured and stored for subsequent distribution to the customer.

With respect to Claim 2, neither Maxwell nor Blinn disclose or suggest receiving a customer product portfolio file that includes at least one SKU associated with each product for which data is requested. Also, the cited prior art does not disclose the mapping of this customer product portfolio file to a system product data file such that each product identified in the customer product portfolio file that is not in the system product data file is identified.

In regard to Claim 13, neither Maxwell nor Blinn disclose or suggest receiving a customer product portfolio file that identifies products for which data is requested, including at least one SKU associated with each of the products for which data is requested. Also, the cited art does not disclose the mapping of this customer product data file to the system product data file such that each product that is not in the system product data file is identified. In addition, the cited art does not disclose or suggest generating enriched product data from the system product data file according to a customer profile.

With respect to Claim 28, neither Maxwell nor Blinn suggests or discloses a method of querying a catalog database that includes product data for one or more products classified according to a data model, and extracting information that is specified by the component definition from the catalog database together with the data model.

The dependent claims recite additional limitations and therefore also patentable over the cited references. The additional limitations are not further discussed, as the above limitations are sufficient to define over the cited art. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of the pending claims under USC 103 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

The Applicants respectfully maintain that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance for this Application from the Examiner. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

BEYER, WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elise R. Heilbrunn', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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APPENDIX I

MARKED-UP COPIES OF AMENDED SPECIFICATION AND CLAIMS

The paragraph under the heading “CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS” has been amended as follows:

This application is related to Docket No. GDT1P001, U.S. Application No. 09/626,347 filed on the same day, and entitled “METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR CATALOG DATA CAPTURE, STORAGE, AND DISTRIBUTION”, Docket No. GDT1P003, U.S. Application No. 09/626,090 filed on the same day, and entitled “METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR IMPLEMENTING A MULTI-LINGUAL CATALOG SYSTEM”, and Docket No. GDT1P004, U.S. Application No. 09/625,745 filed on the same day, and entitled “METHODS OF CAPTURING CATALOG DATA”.

Claims 1, 2, 13 and 28 have been amended as follows:

1. (amended) A method of distributing data for use in a catalog, comprising:
capturing product data for a product according to a data model, the data model having one or more classes, each one of the one or more classes being defined by one or more categories, each of the one or more categories being defined by an attribute group having one or more attributes;
storing the product data, the product data including both a manufacturer SKU that identifies the product and a customer SKU that identifies the product, wherein the stored product data is suitable for use in an electronic catalog.
2. (amended) A method of maintaining catalog data stored in a system product data file, comprising:
receiving a customer product portfolio file[;] , the customer product portfolio file including at least one SKU associated with each product for which data is requested;

mapping the customer product portfolio file to the system product data file such that each product **identified in the customer product portfolio file** that is not in the system product data file is identified;

capturing data for the product that is not in the system product data file; and
adding the captured data for the product to the system product data file.

13. (amended) A method of maintaining catalog data stored in a system product data file, comprising:

receiving a customer product portfolio file that identifies products for which data is requested[;] , **wherein the customer product portfolio file includes at least one SKU associated with each of the products for which data is requested;**

mapping the customer product portfolio file to the system product data file such that each product that is not in the system product data file is identified;

generating enriched product data from the system product data file according to a customer profile; and

transmitting the enriched product data.

28. (amended) A method of querying a catalog database including **product** data for one or more products classified according to a data model, the method comprising:

accepting a user query specifying a product and a component to be retrieved, the component being at least one of a product description, technical specifications, a marketing description, an image, and a URL associated with the product;

obtaining a component definition associated with the component;

extracting information specified by the component definition from the catalog database and the data model; and

building a component descriptor from the extracted information and the component definition.